



ANIMAL DEVAR TORAH: ANIMAL MISTREATMENT

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO HITCH UP YOUR DOG TO PULL A WAGON, OR HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMEONE ELSE TRY TO DO THAT?

- Once there was a boy who tried to hitch his dog and his cat together to pull his wagon at the same time.
- Do you think that's a good idea?
- The Torah teaches us that we should never try to make two animals that are different work together.
- The Torah teaches us that it's not what God intended when God created the world; and, of course, it's a form of mistreatment of the animals.
- Why might it be bad to hitch together two different kinds of animals?

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMEONE MISTREAT AN ANIMAL?

- How did you feel?
- Why do you think it's wrong to mistreat an animal?
 1. It causes pain to the animal. (How would you feel if you were the animal?)
 2. It causes pain and loss to the owner. (How would you feel if it was your animal?)
 3. It damages the person who mistreats the animal. (Were you ever mean to an animal and, if so, how did you feel afterwards?)
 4. It increases the likelihood that the person will harm another person.
- Torah teaches us that other living creatures, even our pets, do not really belong to us; they belong to God; they are only loaned to us; so we must not mistreat them because they belong to God.

JUDAISM TEACHES IN MANY WAYS THAT ANIMALS ALSO HAVE A SOUL.

- Jewish belief has been that all beings are governed by something within them, called a soul, that affects who they are and how they act.
- What do *you* think it means to have a soul?

- One way to think of the soul is that it is that part of us, created in the image of God, that's unlike everyone else in the world—it's the unique part within each of us that wants to do the right thing.
- The thing to remember is that in the Torah, an animal is described as a "living soul"—like us in many ways! (Gen. 9:4)



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